

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. From a client program in a web-based environment, a method for controlling production and display of an image represented by data generated at a source service, said data representing at least in part a predetermined graphic symbol referencing a particular symbol set, said method comprising the steps of:
 - accessing said source service;
 - dynamically generating a printable version of said image represented by said data at said source service under interactive control of said client program, said printable version including said predetermined graphic symbol referencing said particular symbol set;
 - referencing said printable version of said image represented by said data from a composition stored in an imaging store;
 - accessing said composition from a destination service; and
 - if said destination service contains said particular symbol set and if said destination service is instructed to produce said printable version of said represented image, then forwarding said printable version of said represented image to said destination service and then producing said represented image including said predetermined graphic symbol under interactive control by said client program.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said represented image comprises a document.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said document is selected from the group consisting of legal instruments, financial instruments, governmental instruments, money orders, wills, and checks.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined graphic symbol comprises a symbol of authentication.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein said symbol of authentication comprises at least one signature.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said particular symbol set is a font.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined graphic symbol comprises a predetermined string of characters.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said predetermined string of characters comprises a string of alphanumeric characters selected from the group consisting of identification numbers, sequence numbers, dates, graphic coordinates, geographic coordinates, and codes.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein, if said destination service does not contain said particular symbol set and if said destination service is instructed to produce said printable version of said represented image, then producing said represented image excluding said predetermined graphic symbol.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein, if said destination service does not contain said particular symbol set and if said destination service is instructed to produce said printable version of said represented image, then producing a substitute graphic symbol in place of said predetermined graphic symbol by using a substitute symbol set.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said printable version of said represented image does not exist prior to said dynamically generating at said source service under interactive control of said client program.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein a web content acting on behalf of an accessed destination service generates a display at said client program comprising controls that include user selectable production options and a preview version of said represented image based upon said user selected options and upon the capabilities of a production device represented by said accessed destination service.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said production device comprises a print destination, wherein said web content is an executable content acting on behalf of said accessed destination service representing said print destination, and wherein said preview version of said represented image sequentially changes dynamically, based upon the capabilities of print destinations sequentially accessed through multiple destination services, prior to forwarding said printable version of said represented image to a destination service.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said preview version changes dynamically, dependent on interactive user control settings at said client program.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein said predetermined graphic symbol is displayed only when said client program accesses a destination service that contains said particular symbol set.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein said predetermined graphic symbol is not displayed.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein, if said client program accesses a destination service that contains said particular symbol set, a proxy graphic symbol is displayed in place of said predetermined graphic symbol, said proxy graphic symbol when displayed providing affirmation that said particular symbol set is contained in said destination service.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein said preview version of said image is retrieved by said accessed destination service from said imaging store.

19. The method of claim 12 wherein said client program accesses said destination service using an access technique selected from the group consisting of redirection by a second executable content and directly addressing said destination service via a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said client program accesses said imaging store via said second executable content.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein said printable version of said represented image is stored in a graphic store associated with said imaging store and managed indirectly from said client program.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein said imaging store is associated with a user's identity.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said user's identity is accessed by an executable content acting on behalf of said destination service.

24. The method of claim 22 wherein said user's identity is accessed directly by said destination service.

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25. A system for controlling printing and display of an image in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

a first computer;

a second computer accessible from said first computer and operable to provide a first executable content to said first computer in response to a request from said first computer;

said second computer further operable to dynamically generate and display a printable version of data representing said image under the interactive control of said first computer via said first executable content, said represented image comprising at least in part a predetermined graphic symbol referencing a particular symbol set;

an imaging store accessible from said second computer and operable to access and store a composition referencing said printable version of said data; and

at least one destination computer accessible from said first computer and operable to access said composition, said destination computer representing a production device, such that, if said at least one said destination computer contains said particular symbol set, then said production device represented by said at least one said destination computer is operable to produce said represented image including printing said predetermined graphic symbol under interactive control of said first computer.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein said represented image comprises a document.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein said document is selected from the group consisting of legal instruments, financial instruments, governmental instruments, money orders, wills, and checks.

28. The system of claim 25 wherein said predetermined graphic symbol comprises at least one signature and wherein said particular symbol set is a font.

29. The system of claim 25 wherein said second computer comprises said first computer.

30. The system of claim 25 wherein said second computer comprises said destination computer.

31. The system of claim 25 wherein said first computer comprises said destination computer.

32. The system of claim 25 wherein said imaging store is associated with a graphic store configured to receive and store said printable version of said data, said first computer operable to manage indirectly said imaging store and said graphic store.

33. The system of claim 25 wherein said at least one said destination computer is operable to access said printable version of said data in said imaging store.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein said imaging store is associated with a user's identity.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein said at least one said destination computer is operable to access said user's identity using a process selected from the group consisting of directly accessing and accessing via executable content running in said first computer.

36. The system of claim 25 wherein, if said at least one said destination computer does not contain said particular symbol set, then said production device represented by said at least one destination computer is operable to produce said represented image only excluding said predetermined graphic symbol.

37. The system of claim 33 further comprising means for displaying a preview version of said printable version of said data accessed from said imaging store, such that said preview version is based sequentially upon the capabilities of said at least one said production device represented by said at least one said destination computer, dependent on interactive user control settings at said first computer.

38. In a distributed computing environment, a computer for controlling production and display of an image represented by data generated at a source service, said data representing at least in part a predetermined graphic symbol referencing a particular symbol set, said computer operable to:

access said source service;

interactively direct said source service to dynamically generate a printable version of said represented image, said printable version including said predetermined graphic symbol referencing said particular symbol set;

reference said printable version of said represented image via a composition stored in an imaging store;

access a destination service; and

if said destination service contains said particular symbol set, then interactively direct said destination service exclusively to access and produce said printable version of said represented image, including said predetermined graphic symbol.

39. The computer of claim 38 wherein said represented image comprises a document.

40. The computer of claim 39 wherein said document is selected from the group consisting of legal instruments, financial instruments, governmental instruments, money orders, wills, and checks.

41. The computer of claim 38 wherein said predetermined graphic symbol comprises a symbol of authentication.

42. The computer of claim 41 wherein said symbol of authentication comprises at least one signature.

43. The computer of claim 34 wherein said particular symbol set is a font.

44. The computer of claim 38 further operable, if said destination service does not contain said particular symbol set, to interactively direct said destination service to access and produce said printable version of said image excluding said predetermined graphic symbol.

45. The computer of claim 44 further operable, if said destination service does not contain said particular symbol set, to interactively direct said destination service to access and produce said printable version of said image, wherein a substitute graphic symbol is produced in place of said predetermined graphic symbol by using a substitute symbol set.

46. The computer of claim 38 further operable to interactively direct said destination service to generate at said computer a display comprising controls that include user selectable production options and a preview version of said image based upon said user selected options and upon the capabilities of a production device represented by said destination service.

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